No. 105, Youth Affairs and Sports, Major Head 2204 — Sports & Youth Services, Minor Head—00.104 — Sports & Games, 07 — Assistance to National Sports Federations, 07-00.31 — Grant-in-aid-2005-06 (Plan)."

Delegation to Melbourne

1789. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sent any delegation to Melbourne to acquire first hand knowledge in view of Commonwealth Games at Delhi in 2010;

(b) whether the delegation has submitted any report to Government; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Delegations of agencies concerned with the preparation for the Commonwealth Games, 2010 (CWG 2010), namely, the Sports Authority of India, the Government of NCT of Delhi, the Delhi Development Authority and CPWD have visited Melbourne. The Organising Committee have also deputed secondees and observers drawn from different departments and disciplines. In addition, an official delegation was deputed by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in two batches to witness and observe the Melbourne Games.

(b) and (c) Officials of CPWD and DDA have submitted their reports to their respective administrative Ministries. SAI have submitted a detailed report to this Ministry containing observations, comments and recommendations relevant to the organization of CWG 2010. Based on the studies undertaken by delegations, inputs have been obtained for plans for sports venues, infrastructure and management to be developed by these agencies for CWG 2010.

Poor performance by India in Sports events

1790. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to find out the reasons for poor performance of India in the Athens Olympic Games and other International events;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Sports Authority of India is responsible for the poor performance of India to some extent, if not, on whom the responsibility has been fixed, till date;

(d) whether Government have increased budgetary allocations during 2006-07 on sports for providing international standard training facilities, diet, scientific support, high standard coaching by foreign and Indian coaches, etc.; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) While it is fact that there is considerable room for improvement on the standard of sports in the country, the fact is that the performance of Indian sportspersons has been steadily improving. At the Commonwealth Games 2002 held in Manchester, India secured the fourth position and won 69 medals, as against 25 medals won by Indian participants in the earlier Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur. In the Commonwealth Games held at Melbourne in 2006, Wrestling and Judo were not included and the number of medals available in the Weightlifting discipline had been significantly reduced; in all these disciplines India could have secured medals. Notwithstanding this reduced number of medals available for India in the Melbourne Games, India retained its fourth position. Indian sportspersons have performed creditably in a number of international competitions including the First Afro-Asian Games in Hyderabad and SAF Games in Islamabad in 2004. In the Athens Olympics 2004, India won the first ever Silver medal in an individual event since Independence while some of the sportspersons gave their best performances. In the Paralympic Games 2004 at Athens, India won 1 gold medal in athletics and 1 bronze medal in power- lifting.

Recently many Indian sportspersons have excelled at the world level. A few outstanding achievements of the Indian sportspersons are as under:—

1. Indian Archers have won the Silver Medal at the recent World Championship.
2. Indian Shooters have won many medals at Shooting World Championships, including three gold medals by individual Shooters

(2 Seniors & 1 Junior) at the recently concluded Zaghreb World Shooting Championship.

3. Billiards and Snookers — our players have won the World Championships in the last two years.

(c) Sports is a State subject and its promotion at the State level is the responsibility of the State Governments concerned. However, the Government of India, through its own Schemes and the Schemes of the Sports Authority of India (SAI), augments the efforts of the State Government for improving sports performance at the Junior, Sub-Junior and Senior Levels.

The preparation and training of sportspersons for major international events, including the Commonwealth Games, is an on-going process which takes into account inputs provided by National Sports Federations. A systematic approach is adopted to the selection and training of athletes and teams for participation in major international events by drawing up and implementing four-year roll-on Plans within the frame work of Long Term Development Programmes (LTDP) under which exceptionally talented sportspersons, selected on the basis of their performance, are put through scientifically designed continuous training programmes.

(d) and (e) The Sports-related budget allocation of this Ministry with reference to the schemes of the Sports Authority of India, Talent Search and Training and Assistance to National Sports Federations under which international training facilities, diet, scientific support, high standard coaching by foreign and Indian coaches, etc. are covered, has increased from Rs. 174.81 crore during 2005-06 (RE) to Rs. 193.06 crore during the year 2006-07 (BE).

National Youth Policy

1791. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to review "India's National Youth Policy" formulated in 2003;

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken so far to ensure all round development of youth in the country so as to fulfill their legitimate aspirations particularly in the age group of 13 to 19 years; and

(c) whether Government have accorded any priority to rural and